

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Pending Claims

Claims 1-29 remain pending.

THE OFFICE ACTION

The Election of Species Restriction Requirement

The Office Action sets out a species election requirement and requests that applicants elect one species from each of the alleged groups of species of Beams, Flower Sequences, and Fabrication.

The Official Action asserts that the groups are not so linked so as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Election of Species with Traverse

In response to the species election requirement, Applicants provisionally elect, *with traverse*, Beams Group species 1, Flower Sequences Group species 8, and Fabrication Group species 11.

Claims 1-29 are generic to (i.e., encompass) the elected specific species.

While Applicants have provided an election for the aforementioned specific species, the specific species election merely is intended to aid the Examiner in the search and examination of the instant patent application. The election is by no means indicative of Applicants' willingness to ultimately limit the invention to these species. Applicants understand that, consistent with an election of species requirement, other species will be considered within the "generic" claims encompassing the elected species upon an indication of allowable subject matter with respect to the elected species.

Discussion of Election of Species Requirement

The Office has alleged that the species lack unity of invention because they are not linked so as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. However, all of the claims share the following technical features that define a contribution over the prior art:

“a ratio of the width of each said flange between opposite end faces thereof in a direction perpendicular to said plane of said web and the depth of said beam between opposite outer faces of said flanges in the ratio of from 0.2 to 0.4.”

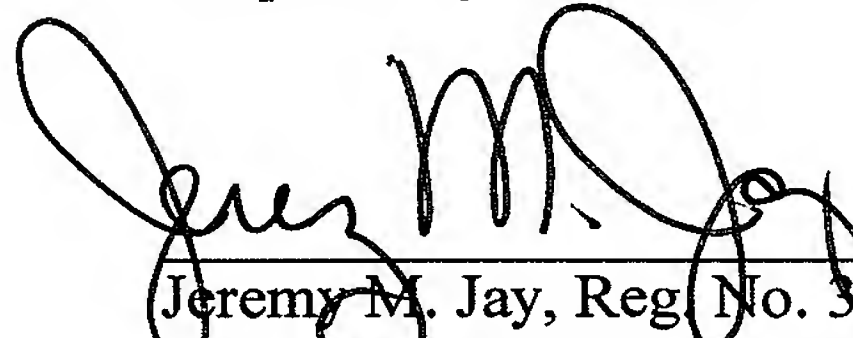
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the election of species requirement is improper and request that it be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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